

**INTENTIONAL: In My Community
Pastor Bill Bowers
November 20, 2016**

- Show me your _____, and I'll show you your _____.

*Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.
Proverbs 13:20*

What Causes Relational Poverty?

1. Increased _____.
2. Modern _____.
3. A rise in _____.

- You are one _____ away from changing the course of your _____.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Acts 2:42-46

Three Qualities of Great Communities

- We have _____ rights.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Acts 2:44

- We all have flawed _____.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7

- We fight _____.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

*...everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
John 13:35*

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LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- What does "community" mean to you? How would you define it in practical terms? Give examples.
- Are you practicing community? Why or why not? Who is your community?
- What are your expectations for your community? What do you expect your community to be and do for you? What do you feel your community needs or wants from you?
- Pastor Bill provided us an image of community in the first century church (Acts 2:42-46). What do you think of this "example" of community? Do you think it is the ideal model? Do you think it is realistic? How can we foster an environment that lends itself to this model of Christian community?
- We have multiple opportunities for every season of life, stage of Christian growth, and generational stage of life in the Mountain View Church. Can you name some examples of these various opportunities? Are you involved with any of these groups? Where or what (style) group do you think would be most beneficial for your season-stage of life?
- Pastor Bill shared a story with us a few weeks ago during our *Intentional* series. He described his transient childhood in a military family and longing for friends with each new move to a different base. His mother told him, "Billy, if you want a friend, be a friend." Have you considered becoming a leader of any of the community groups at Mountain View Church? If you have felt "The right group doesn't exist for me, but I want community...", what do you think the answer might be to this challenge?
- What is your next intentional step toward community? Please feel free to tell me about it through private email: jborden@mountainviewlife.org .

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